THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • FRIDAY • JUNE 19, 2020 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 30 • LATE CITY EDITION

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CENTRE OPENS UP 41 COAL BLOCKS TO PRIVATE PLAYERS

India should become world's top coal exporter, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said while launching the auction on Thursday

A STEP TOWARDS SELF-RELIANT INDIA: PM

The Prime Minister called the unlocking of coal mining for commercial players a big step towards building a self-reliant India. Private companies are expected to inject ₹33,000 crore into India's coal sector over the next seven years. India is currently the world's second-largest importer of coal, despite having one of the largest reserves of the dry fuel

₹20,000 CRORE REVENUE FOR STATES

- Commercialisation of the coal sector will bring ₹20,000 crore in additional revenue to the states, besides creating jobs and helping develop tribal areas, Coal Minister Prahlad Joshi said
- Eleven of the mines are in Madhya Pradesh, followed by nine each in Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Jharkhand and three in Maharashtra

₹50,000 cr
INVESTMENT BY THE CENTRE TO BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE AROUND MINES

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

India rejects China claim to Galwan Valley

Asks it not to make exaggerated and untenable claims; atmospherics positive during Thursday meeting of Division Commanders on the border; foreign minister S Jaishankar to participate in Russia, India, China summit next week

PUSHKAR BANAKAR & MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

EVEN as New Delhi dismissed Beijing's contention that the Galwan Valley in Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) was its territory, saying China must not make exaggerated and untenable claims, India on Thursday confirmed its participation in the Russia-India-China summit next week.

"As we have conveyed earlier today, External Affairs Minister and the State Councillor and Foreign Minister of China had a phone conversation on recent developments in Ladakh. Both sides have agreed that the overall situation should be handled in a responsible manner and that the understandings reached between senior commanders on June 6 should be implemented sincerely. Making exaggerated and untenable claims is contrary to this understanding," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said.

The statement came after the Eastern Theatre Command spokesperson of the People's Liberation (PLA) Army on Tuesday said Galwan Valley was part of the sovereign territory of China.

For its part, the Chinese foreign ministry continued to blame New Delhi for the June 15 violence, which resulted in the death of 20 Indian soldiers in the Galwan Valley. "Indian frontline troops broke the consensus and crossed the Line of Actual Control, deliberately provoking and attacking Chinese officers and soldiers, thus triggering fierce physical conflicts and causing casualties. India must not misjudge the current situation or underestimate China's firm will to safeguard its territorial sovereignty," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said.

Even as political tensions rose, military-level dialogue between the two sides continued on Thursday. "The Division Commanders of the two sides met and the atmosphere during the talks was more positive. The Chinese team heard India's issues and both sides agreed to take the talks forward. More meetings between the two sides are expected on Friday and the day after. There was also no movement of troops and both sides resorted to disengagement," a senior Army officer said on the condition of anonymity.

The MEA spokesperson also confirmed External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's participation in the RIC summit, scheduled to be held on June 23. "Russia is the current chair and it has called for the summit. EAM Jaishankar will participate," he said.

Jaishankar meanwhile joined issue with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for questioning why troops in Galwan were unarmed. "Let us get the facts straight. All troops on border duty always carry arms, especially when leaving post. Those at Galwan on 15 June did so. Long-standing practice (as per 1996 & 2005 agreements) not to use firearms during faceoffs," Jaishankar tweeted in reply to Rahul.

HOMAGE TO BRAVEHEARTS: P9

All personnel accounted for: Army

The Army on Thursday rejected reports claiming that a number of its soldiers were missing after the Galwan clash. "It is clarified that there are no Indian troops missing in action," it said in a statement

CHINESE FIRMS THAT INVESTED OVER $100 MILLION IN INDIA

Year	Investor	Amt in mn
2008	Minmetals, Xinxing Iron	$1,200
2009	Shanghai Auto	$350
2012	Tebian Electric Apparatus	$200
2014	Alibaba	$200
2014	Tebian Electric Apparatus	$100
2015	Huawei	$170
2015	Phicomm	$100
2015	Alibaba	$200
2015	Xian Longi	$250
2015	Alibaba	$680
2015	Trina Solar	$230
2016	Ctrip	$180
2016	Inspur Group	$100
2016	Beijing Auto	$300
2016	Sany Heavy	$100
2016	Xuzhou Construction Machinery	$250
2016	Tidfore Heavy Equipment	$150
2016	Jiangsu Longze	$130
2017	China National Building Material	$250
2017	Alibaba	$180
2017	Tencent	$700
2017	Jiangsu Nantong	$190
2017	Fosun	$1,080
2017	Tencent	$400
2018	Alibaba	$150
2018	Alibaba	$150
2018	LONGi Green Energy	$310
2018	Tsingshan Steel	$1,160
2018	China Poly	$370
2018	Jiangxi Holitech	$200
2018	Alibaba	$210
2018	Guangdong Midea	$190
2018	BBK Electronics	$560
2018	Tencent, Hillhouse, Meituen Dianping	$150
2019	Huawei	$100
2019	Haier	$520
2019	Ctrip	$1,090
2019	Alibaba	$100
2019	China Small & Medium Enterprise Investment	$740
2019	TCL	$310
2019	Alibaba	$400
2019	Skyworth	$100

Source: The American Enterprise Institute and The Heritage Foundation

The dragon's Indian footprint

Amid demands to ban Chinese goods, here's a look at how they are invested in India, proliferate as their products do from cell phones to toys and dolls

MOST ACTIVE CHINESE INVESTMENT FIRMS
• Tencent • Shuwei Capital • Hill House • Capital Corps • Alibaba • Xiaomi

UNICORNS WITH CHINESE INVESTMENT
• Ola • Swiggy • Paytm • Zomato • Flipkart • Big Basket • LensKart • PolicyBazaar • Hike • Byjus • Udaan • Dehlivery • Snapdeal

CHINESE APPS ON THE INTEL RADAR
• TikTok • Vigo Video • Bigo Live • Weibo • WeChat • Helo • LIKE • ClubFactory • ROMWE • BeautyPlus • Photo Wonder • YouCam Makeup • Wonder Camera • SHEIN • Perfect Corp (developer of YouCam Makeup and YouCam Perfect) • SelfieCity • Sharelt • Xender • UC Browser • APUS Browser • CM Browser • DU Browser

TO BE BARRED FROM BSNL, MTNL TENDERS
The Department of Telecom intends to cancel tenders floated by BSNL and MTNL to bar Chinese equipment vendors from participating in them. BSNL had earlier approved ZTE (China) and Nokia (Finland) for proprietary migration of around 50,000 2G and 3G sites into 4G capable units for around ₹2,300 cr | P12

RAILWAY CONTRACT SET TO BE AXED
Railways to end 2016 contract with a Chinese company worth ₹471 crore for signalling work on the Kanpur-Deen Dayal Upadhyay section of the Dedicated Freight Corridor | P9

SIZING IT UP

$26 bn
China's existing and planned investments in India, estimated by Brookings research group in its March report

$2.378 bn
FDI equity inflow from China as of March 2020, according to govt data

Big Chinese companies have lined up further investments in almost all sectors in India. For example, Fosun Group is reportedly close to acquiring 51% stake in a Bengaluru-based real estate firm for **$115 mn**

INDIA BAGS U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT FOR 8TH TIME

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

INDIA on Wednesday bagged an overwhelming majority of votes to become a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

India won 184 of the votes cast by 192 of UN's permanent members to secure a two-year stint at the UNSC starting next January.

Speaking after India's election, Vikas Swarup, the Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs said, "India will work to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation, which will be one of the priorities during its membership at the UNSC. We will also work to improve the system of sanctioning terrorists."

He added that India's work at the UNSC would be guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 5S approach—Samaan (Respect), Samvaad (Dialogue), Sahyog (Cooperation), Shanti (Peace) and Samriddhi (Prosperity).

"Through this approach, we seek to move towards a 'New Orientation for a Reformed Multilateral System'—in short, NORMS," he said.

Soon after the election, the prime minister thanked the global community.

Upset by the result, Pakistan refused to felicitate India, accusing it of violating the UN resolutions on Kashmir.

Being the only nominee from the Asia-Pacific region, India was widely expected to be elected. India became the only nominee from the region after Afghanistan, in a goodwill gesture, withdrew its nomination last year.

Mexico, Ireland, Norway and Canada were also elected to the UNSC on Wednesday. This is the eight time India is winning a non-permanent seat at the body. It last held a temporary seat during 2011-12.

EXPRESS READ

SC stays Puri Rath Yatra due to Covid-19

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed this year's Puri Rath Yatra, which was to begin on June 23, owing to Covid-19. A three-judge bench said, "Lord Jagannath won't forgive us if we allow this year's yatra to go on." P7

2 militants killed in J&K encounters

Srinagar: Two militants were killed in two separate encounters with security forces in the Pulwama and Shopian districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday. Police said the identity of both was being ascertained. P10

WITH THIS ISSUE INDULGE CITY'S BEST WEEKEND GUIDE 30 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)

Eye on Bihar polls, slew of rural jobs on offer to migrants in six states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will launch a 125-day employment scheme for migrant workers who returned home in six states by providing ₹50,000 crore corpus to execute 25 types of works, from Telihar village in poll-bound Bihar on Saturday.

Called the Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyaan, the scheme aims to give jobs to at least two-thirds of the migrant workers for asset creation spanning 12 ministries and departments. The works include construction of border roads, digging wells, building gram panchayat bhavans and housing to create rural assets.

Modi will launch the scheme through video conference in the presence of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi. Chief ministers of five other states — Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan — will also attend the event, the government said in a statement on Thursday.

As many as 116 districts in six states had the maximum influx of migrants who returned home during the lockdown. About 25,000 migrants from each district, including 27 aspirational districts for which the NITI Aayog is administering coordinated developmental works on education, nutrition and health, will be covered under the new scheme.

The scheme is being rolled after the states completed the task of skill mapping of migrants, said a senior official.

Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman said 25 works of the Central government will be brought together for the identified districts. "The scheme will provide employment for everyone who needs it. The fund allotted to all these works will be pooled together and frontloaded for completion of asset creation within 125 days," she said.

The government is aiming to reach out to the upset migrants by hiring them for developmental works during Unlock 1 and 2. P10

116 dists expected to benefit from scheme

Most of the migrants who returned home from their worksites are estimated to be from 116 districts in six states. They are the target group for the job scheme

25 types of works part of the job pool

As many as 25 types of works for rural asset creation spanning 12 ministries will be on offer

PU II students get done with last paper

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE first board examination post the lockdown was held on Thursday with second-year Pre-University students writing the English paper. Earlier scheduled on March 23, the last paper was postponed due to the pandemic-induced lockdown.

A total of 5,96,300 students had registered to write the examination, but 23,635 students remained absent due to various reasons, including the fear of infection. In all, 5,72,665 students wrote the examination on Thursday across 1,016 centres in the state. There was a 2% increase in attendance for the English paper as compared to 2019.

While at most centres, social distancing and Covid-19 safety norms were strictly followed, after the completion of the examination, many students, who were meeting each other after two months, were seen shaking hands and hugging, throwing caution to the winds.

The education department has also taken note of social distancing violations, specially parents thronging the examination centres in many districts, despite being asked not to. "This was witnessed at about 26 of the 1,016 centres," said Primary and Secondary Education Minister Minister S Suresh Kumar. "Showcause notices will be issued to chief examiners. The department will act on it after inquiry," he said.

DETAILS: P2

Students wearing masks before the start of the PUC II English examination paper at NMKRV College in Bengaluru on Thursday | SRIHARI BK

12 DEATHS ON THURSDAY

KARNATAKA SEES THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF FATALITIES IN A SINGLE DAY

COVID-19 BATTLE

210 Test Positive on Thursday

114 Total Deaths

4,983 Total Recoveries so far

FULL REPORTS PAGE 4

10K QUINTALS SEIZED

FILE PHOTO

Sub-standard seeds deal body blow to farmers

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

IN just 35 days since the last week of April, a whopping 10,288 quintals of sub-standard seeds were seized across the state, highlighting the threat farmers are exposed to, even as they are busy with kharif sowing activities. On an average, this works out to 31,000 kg of poor quality seeds seized every day. So far, cases have been registered against 19 individuals and companies.

Farmers are generally advised to buy certified seeds, which are priced a little higher, but they are lured into buying sub-standard seeds, which are cheaper and look much like the certified quality.

"When they use sub-standard seeds, the yield will naturally come down. Farmers take loans to buy seeds, but one of the reasons for suicides among them is that they are not getting good yield," Agriculture Minister B C Patil told *The New Indian Express*.

He also pointed out that earlier, department officials were not allowed to work and there was interference from outsiders. Many a times, cases would not even be registered, he added.

According to a senior officer, the seized seeds are kept at district warehouses and FIRs have been registered against individuals as well as firms.

"These sub-standard seeds are mixed with some chemicals, sometimes with the rejected quality seeds. This often leads to low yield of not more than 60 per cent," he said.

Earlier, department officials would register one or two cases in a month and these would be handled by Assistant Public Prosecutors in the courts. P7

Poor quality materials coming from AP?

Between April 26 and May 30, Agriculture Department officials seized 10,288 quintals of sub-standard seeds, mainly of cotton, maize and sunflower. Cases have been registered at Yadgir, Ballari, Haveri, Bagalkot, Dharwad and Davanagere districts. Hundreds of bags of substandard manure and pesticides too have been seized. Most of these materials allegedly came from Andhra Pradesh.